

South Dakota LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

News Release

April 23, 2004

RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

SIOUX FALLS, April 23, 2004 – Commercial red meat production for South Dakota totaled 77.7 million pounds during March, according to USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This was down 4 percent from one year ago and up 5 percent from last month. For March, sheep and lamb production was up, while pork production was down from last year.

Commercial hog slaughter for South Dakota totaled 366,900 head during March compared to 373,800 head last year. Average live weight was 261 pounds, which was down 2 pounds from March 2003. Federally inspected slaughter totaled 365,600 head, which was comprised of 3,500 sows, and 362,100 barrows and gilts.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter for South Dakota totaled 1,100 head during March compared to 1,000 head last year. Average live weight was 119 pounds, which was up 1 pound from March 2003. Federally inspected slaughter totaled 900 head of lambs and yearlings.

Commercial slaughter data for beef cattle is not published.

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